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QUARTERLY JOURNAL
OF THE
STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

MAY, 1847.

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Statistical Society of London.
Session 1846-7.

In presenting the annual financial statement of the Society's affairs, duly audited, the Council have few explanatory observations to offer. The number of Fellows at the commencement of the present official year is precisely the same as at the commencement of the last, viz., 412; the number of withdrawals during the past year having been 10, and of deaths 5; while the number of elections has been 15. The income of the Society therefore remains the same, but the year's collections have fallen rather under the average, both in compositions and subscriptions. At our present rate of expenditure, however, this trifling fluctuation can give us no uneasiness; for we have a clear £100 per annum beyond the necessary outlay. But while there has been an unusual expenditure of £61 4s. in local investigations, and the abstraction of their results, and £63 3s. 4d. in the purchase of furniture and fixtures for the present apartments of the Society (of which latter sum one-half will be returned at the expiration of the term for which these apartments are held), there has not been paid in, during the past year, the common proportion of compositions. The consequence is, that, leaving the realized property of the Society untouched, there re-appears in the past year's account the balance of about £100 against the Society, which formed a constant feature in its annual statement until last year, when it was obliterated by an excess of collections. This sum is much less than the recoverable arrears of subscriptions unpaid, down to the same date; but the Council hope to see it extinguished in the course of the present year from a much more secure source than those arrears, viz., by the economy recently effected in the expenditure of the Society, which, in rent, printing, and advertising, is seen to be no less than £80 per annum less than that of past years. This sum will supply the means of completely extinguishing the adverse balance, if no expenditure take place during the current year on new local investigations. This calculation allows, however, £20 for the library; and the Council hope in future years to be enabled to apply a much more liberal sum to augment its collection of books, so as ultimately to render it a complete library of statistical science.

The statistical data respecting the population of Whitechapel, collected by the Committee, which arose out of a donation by Mr. Hallam, towards an investigation into the state of the poorer classes of the Metropolis, have been subjected to a careful and elaborate analysis, which establishes some very valuable results; and the whole, in the shape of a report to the Council, will be brought before the Society at an early meeting. Though indisposed to make any large grant at present, for further local investigations, the Council felt themselves justified in placing in the hands of their Secretaries so small a sum as £5, to be expended in procuring a statistical account of the existing provisions for the education of the poorer classes in a large portion of the coal and iron district of South Staffordshire; one of those regions, which, presenting the phenomenon of a rapidly augmenting population, without apparently any commensurate progress in civilization, seems to have peculiar claims upon our attention. The contemplated returns have already been obtained, and an abstract of them is in preparation, to be submitted to you with other authentic data, illustrative of the same subject, at an early period.

Our monthly meetings, as you are well aware, have never been wanting in interest; thanks to the efforts of individual Fellows,—efforts which have been greatly promoted by the facilities of publication afforded by the Journal. The papers on “The Prevalence and alleged Increase of Scrofula,” by Benjamin Phillips, Esq., F.R.S.; on “The Duration of Life of Sovereigns,” by W. A. Guy, Esq., M.D., Hon. Sec.; on “The Statistics of Prussia,” by the Chevalier Hebel, his Prussian Majesty’s Consul-General; on “The Accounts of the Bank of England,” by J. T. Danson, Esq., F.S.S.; and on “The Municipal Institutions and Criminal Justice of the Metropolis,” by Joseph Fletcher, Esq., Hon. Sec., present each the results of labours, as serious as could have been undertaken by a Committee of the Society, at a great expense; and the promise of individual exertion for the current year is yet greater. From one of our ablest contributors during the past year, the Council lament, however, that death has deprived us of all hope of future aid; Mr. James Butler Williams, the talented and public-spirited Author of the paper on “The Principles of Railway Management,” having died at Edinburgh on the 10th of February last.

Appended is the balance-sheet for the year, as examined and approved by the Auditors.

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure from the 1st JANUARY to the 31st DECEMBER, 1846.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in the hands of the Treasurer	67	13	1
1 for 1841	£2	2	0
3 for 1842	6	6	0
Arrears of Subscriptions.	8	8	0
7 for 1844	14	14	0
22 for 1845	46	4	0
Subscriptions	600	12	0
Compositions	21	0	0
Sale of Journal	48	12	11
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Assets, December 31, 1846:—	£815	12	0
Balances of Grants to House Committee	£1	6	10
Charities Committee	1	0	0
Mr. Hallam's Committee	1	0	0
Educ. Stat. Committee	5	0	0
Cash Balance	107	11	0
Petty Cash Balance	7	9	7
One Composition paid in part, 31st Dec. 1846	21	0	0
Dividend on Stock due (one year)	28	5	0
Price of Fixtures to be returned on expiration of lease	31	12	0
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Stock in the Reduced 3½ per Cent., £569 17s., cost £567	204	14	5
Consols 3 per Cent., £338 15s. 4d., " £300	867	0	0
2 for 1841	£4	4	0
7 for 1842	14	14	0
9 for 1843	18	18	0
20 for 1844	42	0	0
27 for 1845	56	14	0
75 for 1846	157	10	0
Deduct Amount not likely to be paid	147	0	0
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Total Assets	£2,034	6	5
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EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
By Rent	150	0	0
Insurance	2	10	0
Salaries	205	0	0
Housekeeping Expenses	34	19	6
Printing	68	7	6
Editing and Advertising Journal	85	12	0
Stationery	5	8	6
Parcels, including Delivery of Journal and Postages	11	12	0
Library	16	10	2
Fixtures of Rooms	31	12	0
Solicitor to London Library	4	5	0
Balances paid to Petty Cash (old account)	6	6	3½
Grant to Mr. Hallam's Committee	56	4	0
Grant to House Committee	20	0	0
Grant to Secretaries for collecting Educational Statistics	5	0	0
Miscellaneous	3	4	5½
Cash Balance	107	11	0
Petty Cash Balance	7	9	7
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Total Liabilities	£815	12	0
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Liabilities, December 31, 1846:—	£288	11	0
Messrs. Harrison, Printers	4	3	10
Mr. Soane, Carpenter	1	19	3
Mr. Gardner, Oilman	3	2	6
Mr. Adams, Ironmonger	7	7	4
Messrs. Vacher, Tailors			
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Examined, Audited, and Approved,			
JOHN BOWRING,			
JOHN FRANC.			
JOHN DUNLOP.			
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March 6, 1847.			